

icon. If pointing to a person or an object it can return to the same pointing direction when the icon is selected. If the person moves or the object moves away from that pointing direction it no longer points to that object or person since it does not follow the person or object. There is no suggestion of building a visual enumeration list of humans by comparing a stored bit map of the faces of participants with a received bit map from the camera. Claim 1 further calls for "determining locations of the humans by determining the location of the faces in the image." Clearly this is not taught in Ojala. Bianchi teaches a method of automatically causing a camera movement to track and display the location of a moving object such as a single person presenting a talk to an audience. A fixed spotting camera is used to capture a field of view and a moving tracking camera is driven to the present location of the moving object. Information for driving the tracking camera is obtained with reference to pixel difference between a current image and a previous image within a field of view. Clearly this method would not work with multiple persons moving in the image since there is no way of identifying the persons. Neither Ojala nor Bianchi teach building an enumeration list of humans by comparing a stored bit map of the faces of participants with a received bit map from the camera or determining the locations of the humans on the list. Neither do this to control the camera to hop directly from human to human based on the stored bit map of the faces. Applicant's teaching permits the participants to move about the room and not just remain at a fixed location and the camera to follow the participants. Applicant's claim 1, as amended, is therefore deemed allowable over the references.

Claims 2 thru 4 and 6 through 16 dependent on Claim 1 are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as amended Claim 1. Claim 2 further calls for "said building step includes highlighting a human face display received from said camera and prompting users to identify if that human is to be included." There is no highlighting of a face on page 6, lines 4-5 or page 5,

lines 25-27 of Ojala. Clearly, nothing like this is taught in Ojala or Bianchi. Nothing like this is done to identify those included from those excluded.

Claim 17 is similar to original Claim 7 put in independent form and without the limitation of original Claim 5. Claim 17 calls for “A method of selective acquisition of participants in a video telephony session comprising the steps of:

providing videophone mike and speakers for selective participants in a video telephony session to operate in a shared mode;

building a visual enumeration list of multiple humans in a single display in the video telephony session for the camera to focus on;

determining locations of the humans;

controlling the camera to hop directly from human to human in a shared mode; and


designating a target person of the multiple humans in a single display in a whisper target mode, and diverting videophone mike and speakers and camera out of shared audio and visual mode to private video and conversation.”

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Ojala et al. in view of Robinson (GB 2,313,251A hereinafter Robinson). It is recognized that Ojala does not teach to designate a target person in a whisper target move and diverting a videophone mike and speakers out of shared audio to a private conversation. The examiner applies the Robinson to teach this. However neither Robinson nor Ojala teach or suggest a configuration of building a visual enumeration list of multiple humans in a single display in the video telephony session for the camera to focus on and designating a target person of the multiple humans in a single display in a whisper target mode, and diverting videophone mike and speakers and camera out of shared audio and visual mode to private video and conversation. There is no suggestion of a multimedia

conference with multiple humans at one location and designating a target person of the multiple persons for a whisper mode and diverting videophone mike and speakers out of the shared audio and visual mode to a private video and conversation. This is not suggested in either reference. Applicant's Claim 18 further calls for said designating step to include highlighting the target person on the video screen. This is not taught in the references.

In view of the above applicant's Claims 1-4 and 6 thru 18 are deemed allowable over these references. An early notice of allowance is deemed in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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